

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 8 of page 5 with the following paragraphs:

In selected embodiments, the trailing module is fixed with respect to the leading module.

In other embodiments, the trailing module is rigidly attached to the leading~~trailing~~ module using glue, welding, or other attachment means.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 9 with the following paragraphs:

Figure 7A is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a first~~various~~ mode[[s]] that may be used to read data tracks on ~~unaltered, expanded, or shrunken~~ tape;

Figure 7B is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a second mode that may be used to read data tracks on shrunken tape;

Figure 7C is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a third mode that may be used to read data tracks on unaltered tape;

Figure 7D is a schematic block diagram illustrating one embodiment of a fourth mode that may be used to read data tracks on unaltered tape;

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 13 of page 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to Figures 7A-7D, a recording head 14 having offset leading and trailing modules 26, 28 may be characterized by a plurality of modes. For example, in selected embodiments, in cases where the dimensions of a tape 12 have expanded since last written, a first mode 64 shown in Figure 7A uses read elements 72 from a first half of a leading module 26, and read elements 74 from a second half of the trailing module 28.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 18 of page 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Likewise, in cases where the dimensions of a tape 12 have contracted or shrunk since last written, a second mode 66 shown in Figure 7B uses read elements 76 from a first half of the trailing module 28, and read elements 78 from a second half of the leading module 26. Similarly, if dimensions of a tape 12 have neither expanded nor contracted, a third mode 68 shown in Figure 7C comprises read elements 72, 78 from both halves of a leading module 26. Substantially interchangeable with the third mode 68, a fourth mode 70 shown in Figure 7D comprises read elements 76, 74 from both halves of a trailing module 28.